

Romano Prodi

President of the European Commission

Romano Prodi was born on Aug. 9, 1939, in Scandiano (Reggio Emilia), Italy. He graduated with a law degree from the Catholic University of Milan in 1961 and carried out postgraduate studies at the London School of Economics.

Mr. Prodi was a professor of economics and industrial policy at the University of Bologna. He also worked at the Lombard Institute of Economic and Social Studies and at Stanford and Harvard universities. An expert on economics and industrial policy, Mr. Prodi has written scientific papers on European industrial policy, Italian public enterprise, energy, and the functioning of economic systems. He has also advised Pope John Paul on the economy of Eastern Europe.

In 1978 and 1979, Mr. Prodi was Italy's Minister of Industry. From 1982 to 1989, and again in 1993 and 1994, he was president of IRI, the state-owned industrial reconstruction institute. Mr. Prodi led the Olive Tree coalition to victory in the 1996 Italian general election and served as Prime Minister until 1998.

Mr. Prodi took office as President of the European Commission in September 1999.

Mr. Prodi is married and has two children.